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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/185,878	11/03/1998	JEREMY R. LENT	NEXTP002	1164

7590 02/26/2003
VAN PELT AND YI, LLP
4906 EL CAMINO REAL
SUITE 205
LOS ALTOS, CA 94022

EXAMINER

HAYES, JOHN W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

30

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/185,878

Examiner

John W Hayes

Applicant(s)

LENT ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 28 May 2002.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,3,8 and 15-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 May 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the top margin (not the back) of each sheet. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. <u>26</u> . | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

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Supplemental Allowance

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 05 June 2002 was filed after the mailing date of the office action, paper no. 25 on 25 April 2002. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 2-3, 8 and 15-20 are allowed over the prior art of record.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per claims 2, 15 and 18, and especially in view of applicant's arguments filed 23 May 2001, the closest prior art of record (WO97/22073 to Walker et al or 5,940,811 to Norris) taken either individually or in combination with other prior art of record fails to teach or suggest performing attribute tests to determine whether the result corresponds to an appropriate rejection reason, and if so, assigning the appropriate internal rejection code for the specific rejection reason and providing a rejection reason corresponding to the internal rejection code to the applicant. The closest prior art of record (Walker et al) teaches generally mapping a factor identified by the credit bureau to a general internal rejection code and providing a rejection of the application based upon a general reason for the rejection, however, does not teach performing an attribute test to determine if the result corresponds to an appropriate rejection reason, and if so, assigning an appropriate internal rejection code for the specific reason for the rejection. Claims 3 and 8 are dependent upon claim 2 and thus have all the limitations of claim 2 and are allowable for that reason. Claims 16-17 are dependent upon claim 15 and thus have all the limitations of claim 15 and are allowable for that reason. Claims 19-20 are dependent upon claim 18 and thus have all the limitations of claim 18 and are allowable for that reason.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Hayes whose telephone number is (703)306-5447. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 5:30 to 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jim Trammell, can be reached on (703) 305-9768.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

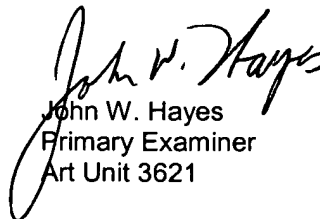
**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington D.C. 20231**

or faxed to:

(703)305-7687 [Official communications; including
After Final communications labeled
"Box AF"]

(703) 746-5531 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington,
VA, 7th floor receptionist.


John W. Hayes
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3621

February 25, 2003